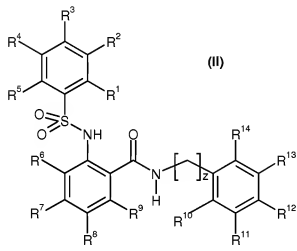


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1) (Currently Amended) An imaging agent which comprises a synthetic MSRA antagonist labelled with an imaging moiety, wherein the synthetic MSRA antagonist is a sulphonamidobenzamide compound of Formula (II):



wherein

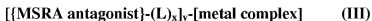
z is 0, 1 or 2;

one of R2, R3, R7, R8 and R12 is said imaging moiety, and the remaining R2, R3, R7, R8 and R12 groups are independently selected from hydrogen, C1-6 alkyl, carboxy, or a halogen selected from chlorine, bromine or iodine; and wherein the imaging moiety can be detected externally in a non-invasive manner following administration of said labelled synthetic MSRA antagonist to the mammalian body in vivo.

- 2-4) (Cancelled)
- 5) (Currently Amended) The imaging agent of claim 3 2, wherein R^3 , R^8 and R^{12} are each independently a halogen selected from chlorine, bromine, fluorine or iodine.
- 6) (Previously presented) The imaging agent of claim 1, wherein said imaging moiety is selected from:
- (i) a radioactive metal ion;

- (ii) a paramagnetic metal ion;
 - (iii) a gamma-emitting radioactive halogen;
 - (iv) a positron-emitting radioactive non-metal;
 - (v) a hyperpolarised NMR-active nucleus;
 - (vi) a reporter suitable for *in vivo* optical imaging;
 - (vii) a -emitter suitable for intravascular detection.
- 7) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the radioactive metal ion is a gamma emitter or a positron emitter.
- 8) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 7, wherein the radioactive metal ion is selected from ^{99m}Tc, ^{94m}Tc, ¹¹¹In, ^{113m}In, ⁶⁴Cu, ⁶⁷Cu, ⁶⁷Ga, ⁶⁸Ga, ⁴⁸V, ⁵²Fe and ⁵⁵Co.
- 9) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is selected from paramagnetic ions of Gd, Mn and Fe.
- 10) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 7, wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is Gd(III).
- 11) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the gamma-emitting radioactive halogen is a radioactive isotope of iodine.
- 12) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 11, wherein the radioactive isotope of iodine is chosen from ¹²³I or ¹³¹I.
- 13) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the positron-emitting radioactive non-metal is selected from ¹¹C, ¹³N, ¹⁵O, ¹⁷F, ¹⁸F, ¹²⁴I, ⁷⁵Br and ⁷⁶Br.
- 14) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 13, wherein the positron-emitting radioactive non-metal is ¹⁸F.
- 15) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 6 wherein the hyperpolarised NMR-active nucleus is selected from ¹³C, ¹⁵N, ¹⁹F, ²⁹Si and ³¹P.

- 16) (Withdrawn) The imaging agent of claim 15 wherein the hyperpolarized NMR-active nucleus is ^{13}C .
- 17) (Previously presented) The imaging agent of claim 6, wherein the imaging moiety is a radioactive or a paramagnetic metal ion and the metal ion is attached to the MSRA antagonist as part of a metal complex to form a conjugate of Formula (III):



wherein:

$-(\text{L})_x-$ is a linker group wherein each L is independently $-\text{CZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}=\text{CZ}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{CO}_2-$, $-\text{CO}_2\text{CZ}_2-$, $-\text{NZCO}-$, $-\text{CONZ}-$, $-\text{NZ}(\text{C}=\text{O})\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{NZ}(\text{C}=\text{S})\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NZ}-$, $-\text{NZSO}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{OCZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{SCZ}_2-$, $-\text{CZ}_2\text{NZCZ}_2-$, a C_{4-8} cycloheteroalkylene group, a C_{4-8} cycloalkylene group, a C_{5-12} arylene group, a C_{3-12} heteroarylene group, an amino acid or a monodisperse polyethyleneglycol (PEG) building block;

Z is independently chosen from H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxyalkyl or C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl;

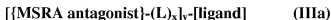
x is an integer of value 0 to 10; and

y is 1, 2 or 3.

- 18) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 17 wherein the metal complex is a coordination complex of the radioactive metal ion or the paramagnetic metal ion with one or more ligands.
- 19) (Original) The imaging agent of claim 18 wherein said one or more ligands are chelating agents selected from diaminedioximes, N_3S ligands, N_2S_2 ligands, N_4 ligands and N_2O_2 ligands.

that the $-(\text{L})_x]_y-[\text{ligand}]$ is present at R2, R3, R7, R8 or R12, in order to be consistent with revised claim 1.

- 20) (Currently Amended) An imaging agent precursor of Formula (IIIa):



wherein:

the MSRA antagonist is as provided in claim 1 and the -(L)_x-[ligand] is present at R2, R3, R7, R8 or R12 and further wherein (L)_x is a linker group wherein L is as defined in claim 17;

x is an integer of value 0 to 10; and

y is 1, 2 or 3.

- 21) (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the imaging agent of claim 1, together with a biocompatible carrier, in a form suitable for mammalian administration.
- 22) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 for use in the diagnostic imaging of cardiovascular disease.
- 23) (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21 for use in the diagnostic imaging of atherosclerotic plaques, coronary artery disease, thrombosis, transient ischaemia or renal disease.
- 24) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23 for use in the diagnostic imaging of atherosclerotic plaques.
- 25) (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24 for use in the diagnostic imaging of unstable atherosclerotic plaques.
- 26) (Previously presented) A kit for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, comprising a precursor of the imaging agent of claim 1.
- 27) (Original) The kit of claim 26 wherein said precursor is of Formula (IIIa) of claim 20.
- 28) (Original) The kit of claim 27 wherein the preparation of said pharmaceutical composition comprises reaction of a radioactive metal ion or a paramagnetic metal ion with the precursor of Formula (IIIa).
- 29) (Original) The kit of claim 28 wherein the radioactive metal ion is selected from ^{99m}Tc, ¹¹¹In, ⁶⁴Cu, ⁶⁷Cu, ⁶⁷Ga and ⁶⁸Ga.

- 30) (Previously presented) The kit of claim 28, wherein the radioactive metal ion is ^{99m}Tc .
- 31) (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 28 wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is selected from Gd, Mn and Fe.
- 32) (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 31 wherein the paramagnetic metal ion is Gd(III).
- 33) (Canceled) Use of the imaging agent of claim 1 for the diagnostic imaging of cardiovascular disease.
- 34) (Canceled) The use of claim 33 wherein the cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis.